



# Professional Military Education **Initial Entry Training**



## **History of the VDF**



# References



- ***Serving Commonwealth and Country,***  
**By CW2 John W. Listman, Jr. (Ret.)**
- **VDF Bugler, June 2013**



# Training Objectives



- **Colonial Jamestown (1607)**
- **Revolutionary War (1776)**
- **World War I (1917)**
- **World War II (1941)**
- **After the Vietnam War**
- **1980's to Today**



# Colonial Jamestown



**In 1607 the Virginia Militia was formed as a part of the British Militia system in order to provide an organized defense against attacks and to give the Governor a body of men capable of bringing order during a disaster.**





# Colonial Jamestown



**Woodcut illustration showing surprise Indian attacks launched across Virginia in 1622.**



# Colonial Jamestown



**Soon after in 1623, the Governor dictated that all men in the Virginia Militia must drill every month on their county court house green.**





# Revolutionary War



- The Virginia Regiment was formed by Governor Dinwiddie in 1754 out of the Virginia Militia.
- George Washington took command in 1755
- Its colors were retired in 1758 and members were returned to the Virginia Militia.



# Revolutionary War



- In 1776, the State reconstituted the Virginia Regiment and reorganized the Virginia Regiment into ten regiments of infantry called “The Virginia Line”.
- The Virginia militia saw much action during the revolutionary war.
- They took part in many campaigns under the leadership of COL Washington.





# Revolutionary War



- **Virginia Light Horse came into Continental Army service and was re-named 1st Continental Light Dragoons.**
- **Henry Lee, a Virginia militia Captain, was commissioned by Congress in 1776 to form 5th Troop, later the 2nd Partisan Corps**



# Revolutionary War



*The Surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown (painted by John Trumbull in 1797.)*

In 1781, American General Benjamin Lincoln, Washington's second in command, accepting the sword of surrender from British General William O'Hara, Lord Cornwallis' second in command. Washington is seen just behind on the right of Lincoln.





# Before & After the Civil War



- In 1846, the main county units mustered for service in the Mexican War
- Virginia Regiment did not actually deploy west and they were sent back to their homes and colors cased in 1848.
- These units formed the nucleus of the Virginia Divisions of the Confederacy in the Civil War





# Before & After the Civil War



Usually referred to as 'young Confederates off to war' this photograph actually shows members of Company A, First Virginia Infantry, the "Richmond Grays," at John Brown's execution in 1859.



# Before & After the Civil War



**Members of the 6th Virginia Volunteer Infantry on mobilization day for the Spanish American War in 1898. Like the three white Virginia regiments they saw no combat and returned home in 1899.**





# World War I



- The various county units were organized and evolved into U.S. Cavalry and Infantry forces for WWI and WWII after the National Guard Act in 1903.
- In World War I the Virginia Volunteers served from 1917 to 1921 as a military force to ensure public order and security.





# After World War I



**Members of the  
“Farmville Guard”,  
Company G, 2nd  
Battalion, 116th  
Infantry standing  
guard at a bridge on  
the outskirts of  
Danville in the winter  
of 1930-1931.**



# World War II



- In World War II the Virginia Protective Force from 1940 to 1944.
- The Virginia State Guard from 1944 through 1947 protected the Commonwealth until National Guard reorganization.



# After the Vietnam War

- **1973 Total Force Policy, 1973 requires all active and reserve military organizations be treated as a single integrated force**
- **Reinforced original intent of the founding fathers (a small standing army complemented by citizen-soldiers.)**





# 1980's to Today



- In 1984 the Virginia State Guard was reformed to provide a military force should the National Guard be mobilized and sent overseas in an emergency.
- In 1986 the Virginia State Guard was reorganized the Virginia Defense Force, and in 1989 the VDF was reorganized as a cadre Light Infantry Division.



# 1980's to Today



- During the Persian Gulf War (1990-1991), VDF units assumed control of the Armories of Virginia Army National Guard units deployed overseas.
- In 1993, the VDF began an in depth study of future roles and missions. This has resulted in a shift of mission focus from security to disaster relief.





# 1980's to Today



## **From the CG: *Modernization of the Virginia Defense Force***

All of us who have been a part of the Virginia Defense Force for the past several years have seen many changes. Generally, these changes have been in response to new missions or capabilities that we, as soldiers within the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), have undertaken to keep us prepared to work with our counterparts in the Virginia National Guard (VaNG).

As we have accepted these new missions, we have seen a great increase in our training requirements and our use by the DMA and VaNG over the past few years. In response to this mission-driven need for our unique capabilities, we have formed into several types of teams, to include our MCPs, IMATs, Shelter Management Support, JOC and VEOC Augmentation teams. While these teams have provided the VDF with a greater responsiveness in emergencies, their formation within our DIV, brigade, battalion and company structure have led to an examination of how best to organize the VDF to take advantage of our training and capabilities.



***MG John Taylor***





# Summary



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- **Revolutionary War (1776)**
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## Questions?